

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009



6



*Note the sign above the 500's ~ only little cars could park in this space*

[www.fiat500enthusiasts.co.uk](http://www.fiat500enthusiasts.co.uk)

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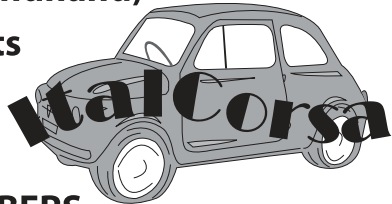
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from the **EDITORIAL** desk (by Jan):

Gosh, where does the time go, we are almost half way through the year already, and you will see by the write-ups, some of us have already attended a few fun events, but please read the events page, as there are still lots more to come.

Sadly, Alisdair, our Chairman has decided to stand down, he always was a very busy man, but now he feels that he just does not have the time to dedicate to the club, on behalf of the club I would like to thank him for all his work in the past, and I understand that he will still be supporting us at as many events as he can. As usual my plea goes out, asking if anyone would like to take on the position or any other role in organising the club.

We have been extremely lucky in finding Jenny Squillaci who has offered to help me out with the magazine, I will continue to do the by-monthly magazine and she will do the News Up-date in between, I hope you will support her, by sending in any small snippets of news that she can print.

Reading through this magazine, I noticed how many members have names for their cars, of course you will have noticed that Jimmy and I call our 500's Alfi and Bugs'y..... What do you call yours and why, perhaps some of you would like to write a few words on the subject and send them to me.

**Jan Di Carlo**



**Deadline for next magazine: 20<sup>th</sup> each month.**

**Front cover: Men watch whilst women work!**

**Note the sign above the 500's, only little cars can park in this space!!!**

**Rear Cover: Little and large, somehow we found ourselves parked on the lorry deck on our way back from France.**

# EVENTS 2009

FOR MORE DETAILS OF ANY EVENTS, DIRECTIONS,  
ENTRY FORMS ETC. CONTACT:  
JAN OR JAMES, TEL: 01252 613335 OR 07730 402202  
[ITALCORS@GOOGLEMAIL.COM](mailto:ITALCORS@GOOGLEMAIL.COM)

## JUNE

**Sun 7th THE HERALD FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT  
CLASSIC CAR RUN FROM FRIMLEY PARK HOSPITAL,  
PORTSMOUTH ROAD, FRIMLEY, GU16 7UJ.  
PROCESSION STARTS 1.30PM FROM HOSPITAL**

Each year a group of us take part in this run, nothing very strenuous, just a short drive to Farnham, waving to all the spectators' en-route. In aid of Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and the hospital. Entries should have been in by the 22nd May, but you can still turn up on the day and take part. Arrive any time after 12noon for the 1.30pm start. I suggest bring a snack/picnic as only limited food available at the hospital.

**Sun 14th BROMLEY PAGEANT OF MOTORING  
NORMAN PARK, BROMLEY**

The world's largest one-day Classic Car Shows, promoted by Classic Car Weekly. Come and visit our club stand, and indulge in a little 'Fiat 500 chat.'

**A day out not to be missed!**

Lots for the whole family to see and do, Cars for sale, Fun Fair, Steam Engines, Trucks, Autojumble and Trade Stands... and so the list goes on.

## JULY

**Sat/Sun 4th/5th FIAT 500 CLUB ITALIA ANNUAL MEETING  
GARLEDA, NR ALBENGA, NORTHERN ITALY.**

25th Anniversary of the Fiat 500 Club Italia. A whole weekend of all things 500. Over 800 cars expected to attend from all over Europe. We are not organising a formal trip to the event this year, but perhaps next year if there is enough interest. But for anyone who is holidaying in northern Italy over this weekend, or anyone who is thinking of a weekend break, come along and join in the fun.

**Sat 18th RIPLEY VINTAGE & CLASSIC CAR MEET  
RIPLEY, SURREY, GU23 6AQ  
1 PM – 5 PM**

A family fun day out including a static display of Vintage, Veteran & Classic Cars. This event has been held each year since Edwards's II's time. Held on the largest village green in England. Free for classic cars to enter, all proceeds go to local charities. I have entry forms for any one wanting to join this event.

If there is enough interest, perhaps we can meet up at a local venue prior to the event, for a convoy drive to Ripley. Let me know if you are interested.

## AUGUST

**Sun 2nd**            **AMBERLEY CLASSIC MICROCAR SHOW**  
**AMBERLEY, WEST SUSSEX. BN18 9LT**  
**10.00AM – 4.30PM**

Another of our regular events, this Classic Microcar & Scooter rally is held at the fascinating 36 acre site of Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre. Set within the South Downs area of outstanding natural beauty, Amberley is a fabulous day out for old and young. Free entry to driver and passenger of classic cars. I have entry forms, so if you are interested, please contact me.

We have in the past arranged a convoy drive down from the Farnham area. If there is enough interest we can do the same this year, arriving in Amberley in time to have a Full English Breakfast!!

**Sat 15th**            **CAPEL VILLAGE CAR & BIKE SHOW**  
**CAPEL RECREATION GROUND, CAPEL. NR DORKING**  
**RH5 5LD.        12 NOON – 4PM**

A show for all types of motor vehicles, from Classic cars, Racing cars, Vans, & Military vehicles, this year including the Dave Degens Historic Dresda Motorcycle collections. An excellent summer's day out.

Donations to The Friends of St John the Baptist Church, I have entry forms for anyone who is interested.

**Sun 16th**            **CRANLEIGH CLASSIC CAR SHOW & AUTOJUMBLE**  
**CRANLEIGH SHOWGROUND, BOOKHURST ROAD**  
**(B2127), CRANLEIGH, SURREY        9AM – 4.30PM**

Why not make a weekend of it, and attend both events in this area. Club Pitches, Jazz band, Lamb Roast, Bar, Craft & Trade Stalls, Antique Stalls, Models, Etc. Free to enter for show cars.

**Mon 31st**            **HAMPSHIRE PAGEANT OF MOTORING**  
**BROADLANDS, ROMSEY, HANTS        10AM -5PM**

The largest Motoring Event on the South Coast. Although the event goes on all weekend, we have a club stand for 5 cars on the Monday. Lots for everyone to do, besides looking at cars, there will be Air displays, Motorbike displays, Fun fair, Massive auto jumble, trade stands, licensed bar & catering. Contact me for an entry pass.

## SEPTEMBER

**Sun 6th**            **ITALIAN CAR DAY & PICNIC**  
**HONNINGTON FARM, VAUXHALL LANE,**  
**SOUTHBOROUGH, KENT,    TN4 OXD    11.30 – 4.00PM**

See page 19, In this magazine for more details, this event is hosted by members Sheridan & Angela Bowie. Promises to be a super day out in a lovely part of the world.

## ALFI EATS FERRARI'S FOR BREAKFAST.

The Breakfast Meets which are held at Goodwood motor race circuit on the first Sunday of each month, got off to a good start in March of this year. Each meet is themed and the March one was Mini Mayhem. Vanessa argued that this did not include Fiat 500's but I thought it did. By being small cars, they are in a sense Mini's, not the make of car called the Mini, but mini as in small.... I hope you understand my thought process!!!

Anyway some Fiat 500 owners turned up, so other people must think like me.... (poor them)...

Jimmy and I decided that this year we would take Bugs'y our red Fiat 500, and on the journey down, we reminisced about other trips that we had made to Goodwood. Perhaps one of the most memorable was going to a breakfast meet a few years ago with Vanessa.

To that particular event we took Alfi, our 500 with the Alfa Romeo engine. Meeting up with Vanessa – Ness was in Noddy, her Fiat 500 – at Farnham station. We then drove in convoy out through Hindhead towards Midhurst on the A286.

Now I don't know if anyone knows that particular road, but just before Midhurst the road winds up quite a steep hill, and although this was not a problem to Alfi, Vanessa in little Noddy struggled a bit to keep the speed up, and as usual with Fiat 500's found that she had quite a queue of cars behind her.



The first car was a bright yellow Seat, and then a Ferrari, the occupants of the Seat seemed to find it very amusing, but the Ferrari owner looked as if he wasn't happy at going slow.

At the top of the hill the road opens out and there is plenty of opportunity to overtake, this, the Seat and Ferrari did, shooting past Vanessa and us, waving and smiling as they drove past.

Jimmy looked at me, and although he knows I don't like it when he gets in his '*Italian driving*' mode, I said "Yes OK", and with that he put his foot down, tail-gating the Ferrari all the way down the hill!!!. I could see the drivers face in the rear view mirror, it was one of absolute amazement!



### **Vanessa & Noddy at Goodwood Revival**

Now, I must tell you that I grew up in Farnham, and spent most weekends of my childhood with my father at race meetings at Goodwood, so I know all the short-cuts en-route. One such short cut is in the middle of Midhurst, and you can guess what is coming next....

Yes, we got back onto the A286 in front of the Seat and Ferrari!!!

I couldn't see the face of the Ferrari driver, but from the body language of his car, we gathered he was not amused at having these pesky little cars in front of him again.

There are no passing places on this road until the turn off up the hill to Goodwood horse race course. Both Seat & Ferrari swept past Vanessa as soon as they could, but Jimmy was having none of it, and

put his foot down, out pacing the cars behind him as we wound our way up the hill.

We pulled over at the top, mainly to let Vanessa catch us up. As they passed, the boys in the Seat waved and cheered, not so the Ferrari driver, with a face like thunder, looking neither left nor right, he drove past, and his passenger looked as if she was not enjoying her day out.!!!

As we followed them down the hill, expecting them to go to the breakfast meet, they suddenly turned off into Goodwood House, perhaps they didn't want to be parked up next those nasty little cars, that had shown them up.

Ah, memories.....

But to get back to this year's event. Although the weather was cold (when isn't it at Goodwood?), it was bright and sunny, wrapped up warmly we met up with Roger and Annabelle in their new (well new to them) 1972 white 500. Luciano in his red car, Tracey & Kevin and the twins. As they had travelled across from Kent from that day, they left their little car at home and came in their ordinary car. Vincenzo also joined us, and John & Mary Jenkins, so we had quite a little group to chat to.



### Bugs'y at Goodwood

These breakfast meets are only morning events, everyone leaving to pursue their Sunday activities by 12 noon. I had arranged a lunch for a group of us at a pub outside Midhurst.



Here we were joined by Angela in her bright yellow Fiat, and Mike & Bev. Angela had driven over from Winchester and Bev down from Farnham. As with any trip out in a 500, there had to be a few dramas. Vanessa, who wasn't keen on getting up early decided to join us for lunch, but unfortunately only got as far as a petrol station in Farnham, when Noddy started making 'strange' noises. So she decided to call out the RAC. By the time they arrived and diagnosed a loose air filter lid, it was too late to join us, but she kept us up to date by text with what was happening in case we had to divert on our way home to help her out.

Bev had a few 'moments' on the drive to the pub, one being the car cutting out as she was crossing a roundabout! But they arrived safely in time to catch up with all the Fiat 500 chat that was going on over the meal. As we pass their house on the way back to ours, Jimmy and I decided to follow them home, all was going well until we got to Bordon, at a traffic light Bev waved to us giving the thumbs up sign..... Oh dear.... At the next lights, the little car started to cough and splutter.....

Bev, being the brilliant driver that she is, managed to get it another 10 odd miles before it gave up the ghost.... In their driveway!!!  
Well done Bev.

All in all, a super day out and only proves that whatever happens, we still manage to get our cars home.

**Jan Di Carlo**

**FOR SALE**

**FIAT 500 GAMINE**

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For more details**

## AUTOITALIA ITALIAN CAR DAY – MAY 2009

Brooklands, here we came!

It was a great day on Saturday 2nd May for Brooklands' annual Spring Auto Italia Day.

Packed to the brim (it took Noddy and myself 40 minutes to get from the entrance gate to park up!) with spectators and exhibitors, the sun shone down on us all – ( got a sunburnt neck to prove it ). So many Italian classics arrived at Brooklands, it was just great. The queue was so awesomely long to get in that 2 Ferraris and 2 Fiat X19s broke down in front of me alone just prior to getting to the entrance gate - they overheated from queuing. My little Noddy kept on going though, through thick and thin of queuing traffic - the beauty of an air cooled engine eh!

We had a superb turn out of CLASSIC (I emphasise the word 'classic') 500s for the day for the Fiat 500 Enthusiasts Club.



I say again (and this is my personal view); who wants to come and view a modern 500 at a car show ?! I paid £12 to get in to Brooklands and I want to see classic cars for the day, not cars I can see everyday today in my workplace's car park, for sale in a car dealership, down the local J Sainsburys store or on the motorway. I wasn't disappointed either. We had a turn out of 15 classic 500s for our club. Love it!

Jan and Jimmy Di Carlo were there early to set up the club stand along with popcorn, wine and appetitifs! Yum. Well done Jan. Then, our club members started to arrive one by one - two by two etc.



This year, due to the size we have grown to as a car club, we were once again situated in the aeroplane area behind Brooklands main club building - a superb location for the likes of the aviation'aholics! One 'aholic' in particular I can mention is 3 year old Saskia Whittington who insisted on viewing and boarding the Sultan of Brunei's donated aircraft to the museum about a dozen times I reckon, as well being merrily keen on visiting Brooklands' historic Stratosphere Chamber for testing aircraft fuselages - to name only a few of the museum's attractions. I think Saskia is going to become a pilot in my view! She also has an extreme natural liking for the Wellington Bomber and other various aircraft located in one of Brooklands' listed WWII aircraft hangers!! Hmm, me thinks there is a DEFINITE link to Saskia becoming a pilot, don't you think?!

Anyway, moving on, more and more 500s from our club kept on arriving. The place was packed - it was awesome. I, personally myself, met up with some work colleagues who came to Brooklands for the day who I had no idea were coming along, and I also got the opportunity to meet up with fellow 500 Enthusiasts Club friends who I haven't seen for yonks. It was all so exciting. Club Chairman, Al Shepherd and his friend David (who I affectionately named 'Baby David') arrived to a roar of a welcome in Al's 1962 Fiat 600 which I instantly nicknamed 'Thomas', 'cause the paintwork was the same paintwork colour as Thomas the Tank Engine - (anyone who knows me will know this is the 'norm' protocol for me - to name a car that is, oh, and to be a car nut as well).

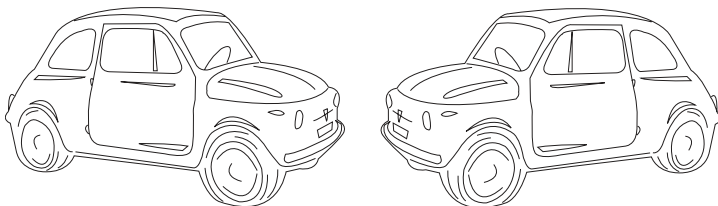
As the day progressed and the sun shone down harder, picnic hampers, deckchairs, knotted hankies for hats (only kidding on that one!), rolled up jumper sleeves and trousers came out to welcome in the lovely British summertime sun.

So many came to Jan and Jimmy's well-organised Fiat 500 Enthusiasts Club stall to say hello, stop by for a chat, or join up as a club member. Brooklands has so much to offer that it is well worth the entrance fee and is one of those annual events which you just have to go to. It's a 'day long' event with so much to see, so much to do and so many fellow 500 owners to meet and greet and exchange talk and banter with. There's never a dull moment.

Thank you again to Jan and Jimmy for making this day so special in the 500 Enthusiasts Club event calendar. The no. of us turning up for this event is becoming more and more as each year passes - so put it in your calendar for next year already!

Ta taa for now.

**Ness Gathercole (and Noddy, my beloved 500).**



## TECHNICAL TIP

(or should I say TECHNICAL MOAN !!!)

I remember the times when a restoration job on any Fiat or Italian car was a pleasure and the completed job was very rewarding.

But times have changed for the worst, cars are getting older and the spare parts, especially panels are of inferior quality and badly made.



Today is a real struggle to restore a Fiat 500 without a lot of swearing and cursing in Italian or other languages. Nothing fits, complaining to the suppliers or manufacturers is a waste of time. Because The Fiat 500 (classic model) is no longer in production, we have lost the main manufacture quality control and the outside firms who now produce the parts are ripping us off in two ways, one in the cost and the other in quality of the goods..... And we can do nothing about it!!

Then, and naming no names, there are some unscrupulous suppliers in this country, who buy from Italy the parts that have already been rejected and flood the on line auctions with these inferior parts, not helping the matter at all.

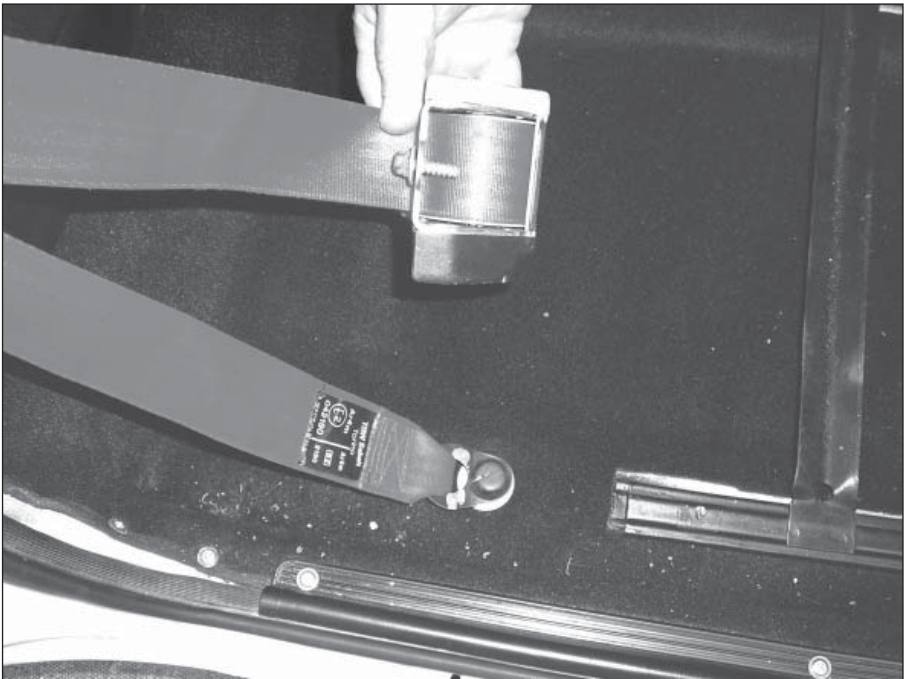
Next there are the DIY brigade, they buy a workshop manual and a set of metric spanners, and 'pronto' you have a *Fiat 500 specialist!*

The number of botched jobs that we have seen through the years by this 'brigade' is breathtaking and too numerous to mention.

Dante Giacosa (the designer of the Fiat 500) would turn in his grave if he knew of the abuse that his great Fiat 500 masterpiece is subjected to by this 'brigade'.

One instance I can mention that I found was: instead of replacing a worn out and stretched handbrake cable, which can be rather time consuming, some *clever mechanic* had used a piece of washer tube to tie a knot in the cable!!

Once, I remember that we could not remove the fuel tank from a car, after removing all the necessary fittings, we then discovered that the screws holding the radio frame under the dashboard were too long and screwed into the bottom of the petrol tank, the amazing thing about it was there was no fuel leaks..... until we removed the screws..... You try explaining to the customer that, by removing the fuel tank we had given him a petrol leak that was not there before the car was brought to us !!!



**Note: The tiny screw holding this seat belt in place..... Need I say any more?**

**James Di Carlo**

# FARNHAM CLASSIC & VINTAGE CAR SHOW

**SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 2009**

On a glorious sunny Sunday morning, we arrived at a car park in the middle of Farnham. It was lovely to see some familiar faces and to meet some new ones.

It was an excellent turn-out by the club, about 7 cars and eventually Vanessa (along with watering can handbag) arrived. *'Thank Goodness'* for mobile phones, as Jan managed to direct her to the right venue after she had tried all the other car parks in the town.



**One of Steven's sons trying Steve Blake's car out for size.**

As Vincenzo and I wandered around the show, another familiar face 'popped up'. An old Fiat X1/9 that we had owned many years ago. She was looking in excellent condition, thank you to her new owners.

Jan and Jimmy had arranged a nice lunch at the local Pizza Express, Vincenzo and I joined, Jan & Jimmy, Vanessa, John (hope you and your bathroom arrived in Ireland in one piece), Steve & Val Blake and Bev & Mike Fowler for an enjoyable chat over a pizza.



**A line up of cars, Steve Blake's - Bev's - Alfi, Jimmy's car – Vincenzo car -  
John's light blue car – Noddy, Vanessa's car & Tim's yellow 500  
all lined up in the car park at Farnham**

Sorry that we missed the day on our home town of Horsham the following Easter Saturday, but hope to see you all at AutoItalia, Brooklands on 2nd May.

**Dianne Morrone**



## ARRAS EXPOSITIONS D'AUTOMOBILES ET ANCIENNES.

### (FRENCH GATHERING FOR OLD FIAT 500 CARS)

The weekend started well – for some of us – a fast drive to Dover 9.30 ferry, 10.30 breakfast and 11.30 Calais.

With some of the party delayed with punctures, we decided to head off for Arras and after a short stint on the motorway, we hit the A roads.

At 1pm we were just entering a small village when *Clunk, Clunk, Clunk*, started, I pulled onto the side of the road and waited until Jimmy and Jan realised we were not following.

The jacks out and the car in the air Jimmy diagnosed a collapsed drive coupling!! We thought that was that and our little car was never going to make Arras that weekend.

I should have known better, Jimmy carries all the essential spares and even better, bits that fit my 500.

Ground sheets were out and Jimmy was under the car commanding tools and parts like a surgeon on the operating table.

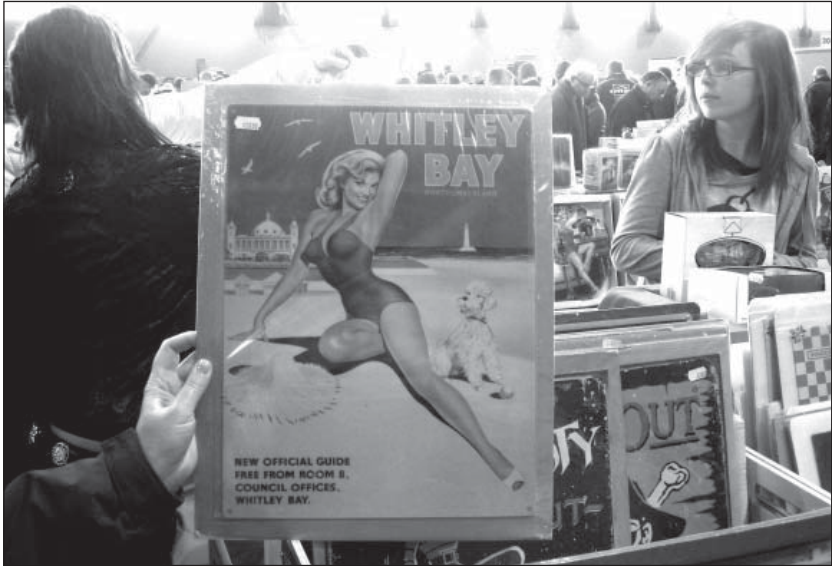
30 minutes later we were all pulling into a local restaurant for lunch.

The beautiful town of Arras followed, where we spent the rest of the afternoon in glorious sunshine, sipping the local wines and beers.



Sunday and an early rise, after breakfast headed for the Park des Expositions and joined the queue to find our place with the English contingent

The main exhibition area was full of, Yes old cars, and everything else from wheels to wipers and posters and placards, the first to catch our eye was a placard of Whitley Bay, the place of my birth and situated in Northumberland UK, obviously famous in the town of Arras!!



We came, We saw. We saw it again, so we headed off to the local supermarket on search of Snails!!

Yes we do love snails and in France you can buy them frozen in their shells in BIG bags of about 50. We brought the entire stock (6 bags) and 6 tubs of garlic butter (no, we don't have many friends) but it filled the forward luggage compartment of the 500 and they were still pretty cold when we got home.

We headed home in the afternoon with a motorway lunch all arriving safely back that evening. We enjoyed the whole experience being the first foreign trip with the club, even my wife who was always dubious of the Fiat 500 getting to Dover let alone the middle of France (well, 60 miles).

A week after the trip, I took Jimmy's advice and replaced the other drive coupling in the comfort of my garage, with lots of room and all the right tools, it took me one and a half HOURS, long live the maestro.

**Peter & Kay Siddall**

IN AID OF KENT AIR AMBULANCE

AT HONNINGTON GARDENS  
ON SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER

11.30am – 4.00pm

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**'Little & Large'**

**Somehow we found ourselves parked on the lorry deck ...**